

and racial differences, of fostering religious freedom and individual right and civic responsibility; each of us to take responsibility for the welfare of all of us.

The event we have joined to commemorate is one of immeasurable sorrow; yet today we speak of hope, as others have said. For while the faces pictured within the museum remind us of the worst of an old Europe, the faces I see within this tent suggest the best of a new Europe and a new world: a Europe no longer divided by ideology, no longer braced for all-consuming war, where freedom is replacing repression, where people can devote less of their resources to preparation for hostilities and more for investment for prosperity. We know, of course, that the new Europe is not yet free of old cruelties and that contemporary horrors like the slaughter of innocents in Bosnia have not disappeared. Indeed, one of the eternal lessons to which this museum bears strong witness is that the struggle against darkness will never end and the need for vigilance will never fade away.

Still, we have grounds to hope that the seeds of democracy in Europe will one day soon bear the fruit of a more peaceful civic culture in which neighbor no longer lifts up sword against neighbor, within countries or across national borders. Our own people have long waited and too often have had to fight for that kind of

Europe. Now that these historic transitions are underway, I want you to know that the United States will remain fully engaged in Europe and in its transitions toward a new and better future. For, as we vow never to forget the dark days of a half-century ago when all humanity fell apart, we can also celebrate in this event the process of coming together by rededicating ourselves to making sure that the process works, that this time all of us will get it right. It is a coming together of Israel and those nations that saw much of the worst persecution of the Jews. A coming together of Western Europe and Central Europe and Eastern Europe and, indeed, the first coming together of those regions ever as democratic states. It is a coming together among free peoples determined to confront and remember the horrors that befell past generations so that we can create a world of justice and peace for our generation and for the children to come.

I thank all of you for coming here today. But more than that, I thank you for living the lives that brought you here today. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:43 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Mandy Patinkin and Benjamin Meed, president, American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

Exchange With Reporters on the Stimulus Package

April 21, 1993

Q. Mr. President, any reaction to the——

The President. Well, I'm disappointed. But I knew when I came here that we'd have to change some things in Washington and that the American people won't be surprised, I guess, to think that a minority of one House could keep several hundred thousand people out of work this year. I think it's a mistake, but I'm not done. I'm going to come back next week and regroup and go forward.

We've had a real good success getting our budget plan through. We've kept interest rates down. There's going to be \$100 billion in refinancing this year as a result of that. So I think that things are going basically in the right direc-

tion, but I'm very disappointed about this. And frankly, I'm a little surprised about it. It doesn't make a lot of sense. A lot of the Republican Senators told me they wanted us to work something out, and I went out of my way to meet them halfway, and then some. I don't know. But I just think that we've got to keep fighting for jobs.

I think it's so easy for people who are here, who have not been out in the country, who make these decisions, who all have jobs, to be willing to pay for unemployment but not want to invest in employment, not want to put people to work. And I just think we've got to keep fighting for it. So next week I'll regroup and

try to do something else.

Q. What do you come back with next week?

The President. I don't know. We'll see. This country went in one direction solid for more than a decade. I've been here about 90 days; it's going to take a little while to turn it around. But I'm not too disheartened. I'm disappointed in this particular thing and surprised by it, genuinely surprised, but I think we can regroup and go forward.

Q. If you can't get a \$16-billion stimulus package through Congress, what does it say for some of your more ambitious proposals, health care reform and the price tag that that carries with it?

The President. Well, we'll just have to see. I think that depends on, always, whether there is a majority for a proposition and then whether the minority will keep it from even being voted on. I think the American people need to know that we had a majority in both Houses of Congress, but the minority kept the issue from being voted on. I feel pretty good about it.

We passed the budget resolution, and we got the 60 votes necessary to break the debate in the Senate there, so I think we've got a real shot at a lot of reform. But it's going to be hard. And as I said, look at what's happened in the last 12 years: the deficit goes up, jobs go down, and no investment in our people. Congress passes laws it doesn't live under. We're trying to change this. And a lot of the Members of Congress have been willing to support this process of reform. This is, I hope and believe, an aberration where a minority stubbornly refused to let an issue get voted on. I'm just not going to be discouraged by it; we're just going to go on.

Q. Let me ask you, when you come back next week, are you coming back with a scaled-down jobs bill or what are you—

The Vice President. Stay tuned.

The President. I've got to talk to a lot of people, see where we are, and go forward. We've got lots of other issues we need to put out there in the Congress and, you know, we may not win them all. But I'm going to keep fighting for jobs. I'm going to wake up tomorrow knowing that I'm waging a fight to put the American people back to work and lift this economy up, and that's what I was hired to do. I'm just going to keep doing it.

Q. Is this a pretty big defeat for you, Mr. President? Isn't this a big defeat?

The President. Not a big defeat. For me, it's a big disappointment to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who would have had jobs. But I don't have to explain it; I fought for it. The people who have voted for this sort of spending repeatedly to help other countries and wouldn't do it to help their own folks and did it when the deficit was going up, and I'm bringing the deficit down, they may have to explain some things, but that's the way Washington's worked for too long. We're going to lift this thing up and change it. We've just got to get people focused on the American people and their needs and put aside all the petty politics and all the maneuvering and start thinking about what's best for the American people. I think we can change it, and I'm upbeat about it. We've just been here 90 days. And basically, the big part of the plan, the budget resolution, passed. We've just got to keep fighting it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:42 p.m. in the North Portico at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Panamanian Government Assets

April 21, 1993

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

1. I hereby report on developments since the last Presidential report on October 5, 1992, concerning the continued blocking of Panamanian government assets. This report is submitted pur-

suant to section 207(d) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1706(d).

2. On April 5, 1990, President Bush issued Executive Order No. 12710, terminating the na-